

Our Public Lands

SPRING 1975



Western Game Ranges

— BLM's Expanded Role

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SPRING 1975
Vol. 25, No. 2

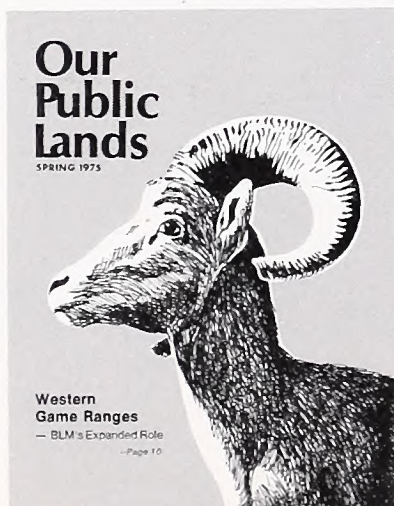
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The Desert bighorn is native to the Kofa Game Range, now managed by BLM. While this lordly animal can survive in the austere desert environment of southwestern United States, intensive management is needed everywhere if it is to escape the endangered species list.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Stanley K. Hathaway, Secretary

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Curt Berklund, Director

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, and recreational resources. Indian Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

OUR PUBLIC LANDS, the official publication of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, is issued in January, April, July, and October.

Sam Stafford, Editor

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For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Single Copy, 75 cents. Subscription price, \$3.00 a year; 75 cents additional for foreign mailing.

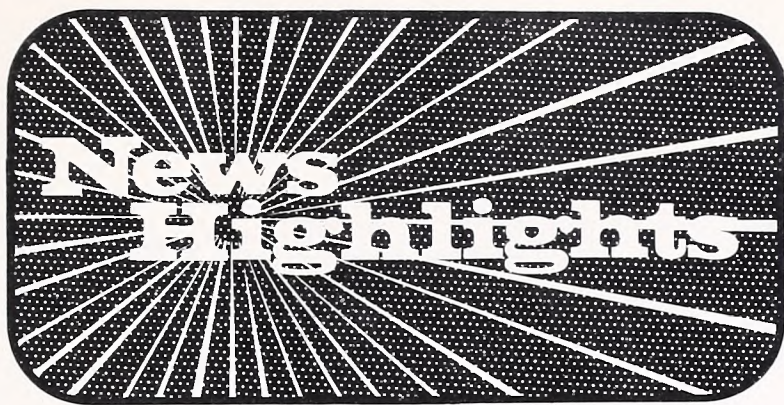
The printing of this publication was approved by the Office of Management and Budget, February 6, 1973.

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Since January 1975 the Department of the Interior has taken the following actions pertaining to leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf:

- February 21, Published a draft environmental statement concerning the proposed leasing of 1.6 million acres of the OCS off the coast of Southern California. Public hearings were held in May.
- February 27, Accepted high bonus bids of \$247,680,855 for 113 tracts on the OCS off the south Texas coast. A total of 551 tracts were offered in the sale held February 4. Only 143 tracts received bids, 30 bids were rejected. The leased tracts totaled 626,585 acres.
- March 17, The Supreme Court affirmed Federal ownership of offshore oil and gas rights on the Atlantic OCS. The action came after the State of Maine had challenged Federal rights beyond the 3-mile limit. Secretary Morton assured Atlantic Coast Governors of continued cooperation from the Department.
- March 20, The Department released a list of 330 tracts totaling 1.8 million acres which are being considered for oil and gas leasing on the OCS in the Gulf of Alaska.
- March 25, The Department called for nominations and comments for a proposed oil and gas lease sale on the

Mid-Atlantic OCS. The proposed area is on the Baltimore Canyon Trough off the coasts of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. No point is closer than 20 miles from shore.

In other energy-related matters, the Department released a report on "Water for Energy in the Northern Great Plains with Emphasis on the Yellowstone River Basin" on January 24. Secretary Morton announced that the report was available at a meeting on national energy policies with the Governors of 11 western states. The report was prepared by the Denver Management Team organized under Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Resources, Jack Horton. The Northern Great Plains area, which encompasses 63 counties in Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, has major deposits of coal. The report indicates that the Upper Missouri River Basin has adequate water to meet projected energy development and for other uses.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

On January 16, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture imposed a moratorium on scheduled increases in grazing fees on National Resource and Forest Service lands. The moratorium was imposed in recognition of the difficult economic and drought conditions faced by the livestock industry throughout the west.

The Secretaries emphasized that the moratorium does not change

the objective of gradually increasing grazing fees until fair market value is reached by 1980.

Because of the moratorium, grazing fees for 1975 will remain at \$1.00 per animal unit month on National Resource lands and at \$1.11 on National Forests.

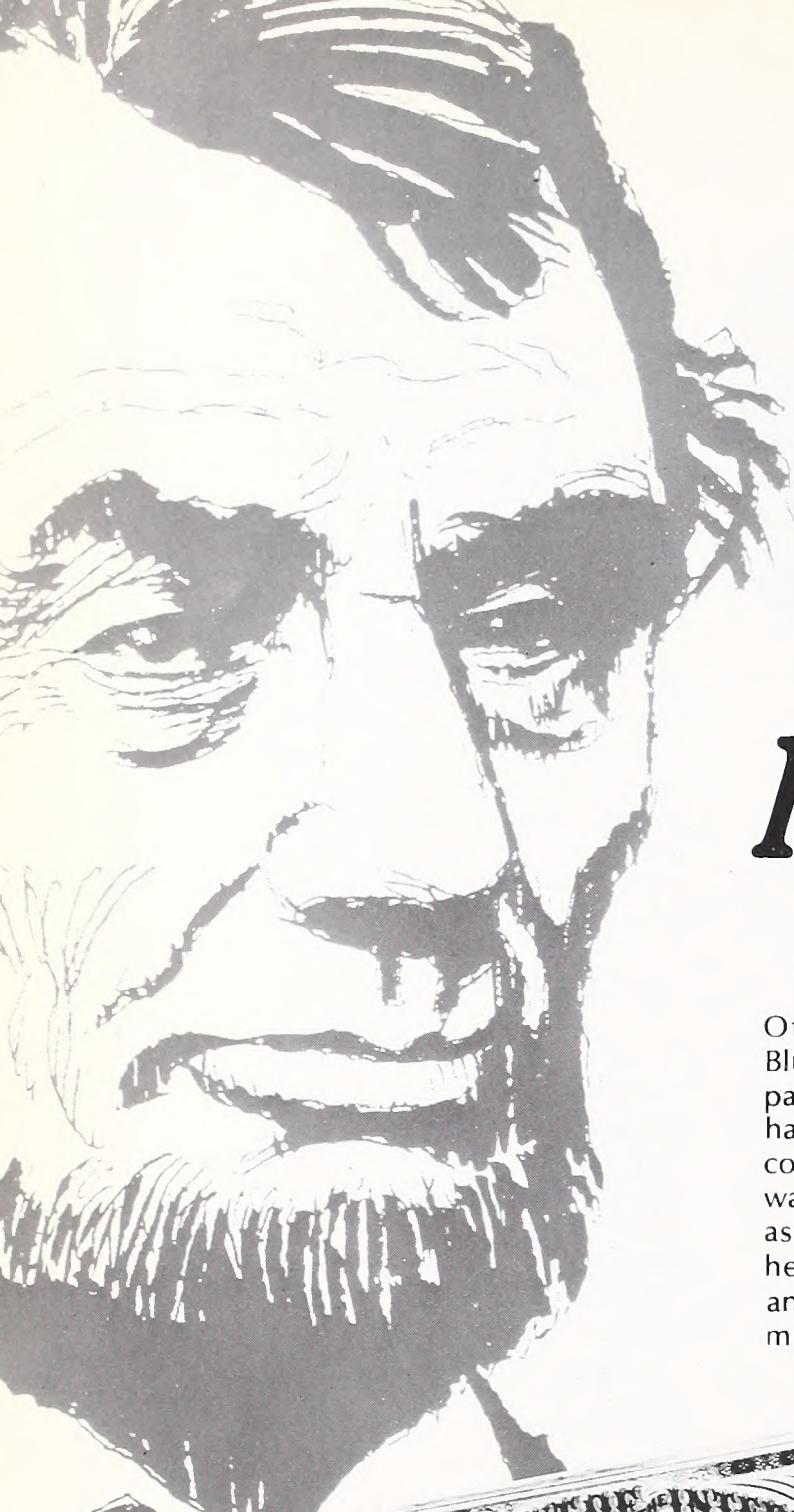
On February 5, the Bureau of Land Management issued a report on range conditions on National Resource Lands in the west. The report shows that while BLM has been able to cut the rate of decline in the condition of range land, an intensive management program is needed to avert continuing deterioration in future years. The report was prepared at the request of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

GAME RANGES

On February 15, Secretary Morton announced that he had assigned management responsibilities for the Kofa Game Range in Arizona, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada, and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range in Montana to the Bureau of Land Management. The three ranges had been jointly administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In a speech before the National Wildlife Federation's annual convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, BLM Director Curt Berklund acknowledged that some Conservation organizations were concerned because of the Secretary's decision. He pledged that:

- There will be no change in the present commitment to dominant use for wildlife on the three ranges. Wildlife is the dominant use. It will continue to be the dominant use.
- There will be no reduction in the number of people now assigned to manage the three areas.
- The budget for game management on the three areas will not be reduced.



In 1859, Mr. Lincoln exchanged a military warrant for 120 acres of public land in Crawford County, Iowa.

Mr. Lincoln's

Will Pusey, a co-owner of the Officer and Pusey Bank of Council Bluffs, Iowa, looked up from the papers on his desk and made a hasty appraisal of the stranger coming through his door. The man was tall, but stood slightly hunched as though embarrassed by his height. The face was deeply lined and homely, and deep set blue eyes met Pusey's without wavering.

As Pusey rose to shake the proffered hand, he thought there was something vaguely familiar about the man, and tried to recall where he might have seen him before.

"Mr. Pusey, my name is Lincoln," the man announced as they shook, "back home folks usually call me Abe."

"The name is familiar, but . . ."

"Well, a while back, I ran for the U.S. Senate over in Illinois."

"Yes, that's it. You ran against a fellow by the name of . . ."

"Douglas." Lincoln supplied as Pusey's memory faltered.

"Yes, yes, I recall. I've seen your picture. Something about a debate."

Researched by
DOROTHY WILLIAMS
and
BERNICE BOBENHOUSE



In return for his service in the Black Hawk Indian War Abraham Lincoln was issued this Bounty Land Warrant for 120 acres of public domain land. He exercised the warrant in 1859 and was given a patent to land in Crawford County, Iowa.

Acres

"That's right. My friends tell me that I had the best of the argument, but it seems that Mr. Douglas had the best of the voting."

"Now its all coming back to me. There was something in the paper recently about you coming to Council Bluffs, and I think I heard Mr. Grenville Dodge mention your impending visit. Something about the railroad," Pusey said.

"That's the gist of it. I have a client who wants me to look into a matter here. Then I'm very much interested in the new railroad and have wanted to meet Mr. Dodge," he admitted. Then with a wry smile he added, "Of course I wouldn't mind influencing a vote or two while I'm here."

Pusey chuckled. He was beginning to like the man. "You can certainly have mine. Are you planning to run for office in Iowa?"

"Not exactly. I had in mind the Republican nomination for President."

Mr. Pusey's eyes widened perceptibly. "I would think that Mr. Dodge could help you there," he said. "Of course if there is anything I can do."

"There is, but I didn't come here to campaign. Mr. Dodge said you might be able to help me with a personal matter."

"Certainly. Just what is the nature of your business?"

Lincoln fumbled with his vest watch pocket, and eventually drew out a much folded bit of paper. Obviously the paper had been carried in the pocket for a long time. It was now discolored and the edges were frayed.

"I kept this as an heirloom of the Black Hawk War," Lincoln explained as he carefully unfolded the fragile piece of paper on the desk.

Pusey recognized the paper as a military land warrant issued to veterans as a partial reward for military service in time of war. The warrant called for 120 acres of public domain.

"It was all I had after my boys began to grow up. I thought I'd keep it to show them that their father was a soldier," Lincoln said.

"I gather that you now want to exercise the warrant?"

"I really haven't the time to handle the matter myself."

"Would you like for the bank to handle the matter for you? I have personally handled a number of these warrants for others. Now there is still land available in the State. I am sure that I could get you a tract up in Crawford County."

"I'd appreciate very much if you would act as my agent in this matter," Lincoln said.

The account given above of Abraham Lincoln's visit to the office of William H. M. Pusey is mostly a product of the writer's imagination. However, it is based on known fact. Among these facts are:

- Abraham Lincoln was a volunteer in the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832.
- He did receive a military land

Tax bills levied against the Lincoln estate in Crawford County were usually paid by Officer and Pusey.

303 No. 546
 Date Mich 10 1864
 Name Abraham Lincoln for O & P

TAX OF 1863

Description of Lands and Lots	Sec'n	Town	Range	Acres	Kind of Tax	Taxes	Interest
E 1/2 NE 18	84	39	80	State	48		
SW 1/4 NE 18	84	39	40	County	72	1	
				School	24		
				Road	60	1	
				Sh. House	24		
				Sh. House	60	1	
				Teachers			
				Conting't	12		
				Costs			
				Total Int.	3		3
				Total	303		

No. 723 \$ 7.59
 Date May 13 1867
 Name A Lincoln Estate by O & Pusey

TAX OF 1867

Description of Lands and Lots	Sec'n	Town	Range	Acres	Kind of Tax	Taxes	Interest
E 1/2 NE 18	84	39	80	State	67	1	
SW 1/4 NE 18	84	39	40	County	81	2	
				School	27		
				Bridge	27	1	
				Bounty	108	3	
				Incidental	67	1	
				T. Fund	162	5	
				S. House	135	4	
				Costs			
				Total Int.	18		18
				Total	759		

Treasurer's Office, Crawford County, Iowa. No. 759
 Denison, Feb 25th 1870.
 Received of Robt Lincoln By O & P

In full of the following Taxes for the year 1869, on the annexed Real Estate:

Description of Lands and Lots	Sec'n	Town	Range	Acres	Val	Kind of Tax	TAXES	INTEREST
E 1/2 NE 18	84	39	80	360	18	State	80	
SW 1/4 NE 18	84	39	40	150	18	County	180	
					18	School	45	
					18	Bridge	135	
					18	Road	135	
					18	Incidental	135	
					18	T. Fund	315	
					18	S. House	450	
					18	Costs		
					18	Total Int.		
					18	Total	1485	

Booked Treasurer.
 Deputy.

warrant calling for 120 acres of public domain land for his services.

- He did visit Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1859 and during that trip he did visit with Grenville M. Dodge who was conducting a survey out of Council Bluffs for the Rock Island Railroad.

- He did solicit the services of William H. M. Pusey of the Office and Pusey Bank to file the land warrant in his behalf with the General Land Office in Council Bluffs.

- As a result, 120 acres of public domain land in Crawford County, Iowa was patented in Abraham Lincoln's name.

The Black Hawk Indian War was among the last military actions between the United States and Indians east of the Mississippi River. It was also the last war in which soldiers received unconditional land warrants in return for their military service.

Although the Black Hawk war was another in a series of tragedies for those Indians who lived east of the Mississippi River, it can barely qualify as a war. It came about as a result of misunderstanding between the whites and the Indians and also because of the impatience of white settlers to acquire land from the public domain.

In 1804 William Henry Harrison made a treaty with Chiefs from the Sauk and Fox tribes to clear Indian title to certain lands in Illinois. As a part of that treaty he had promised the Indians that they would be able to live and hunt on the land until it was surveyed and opened for settlement.

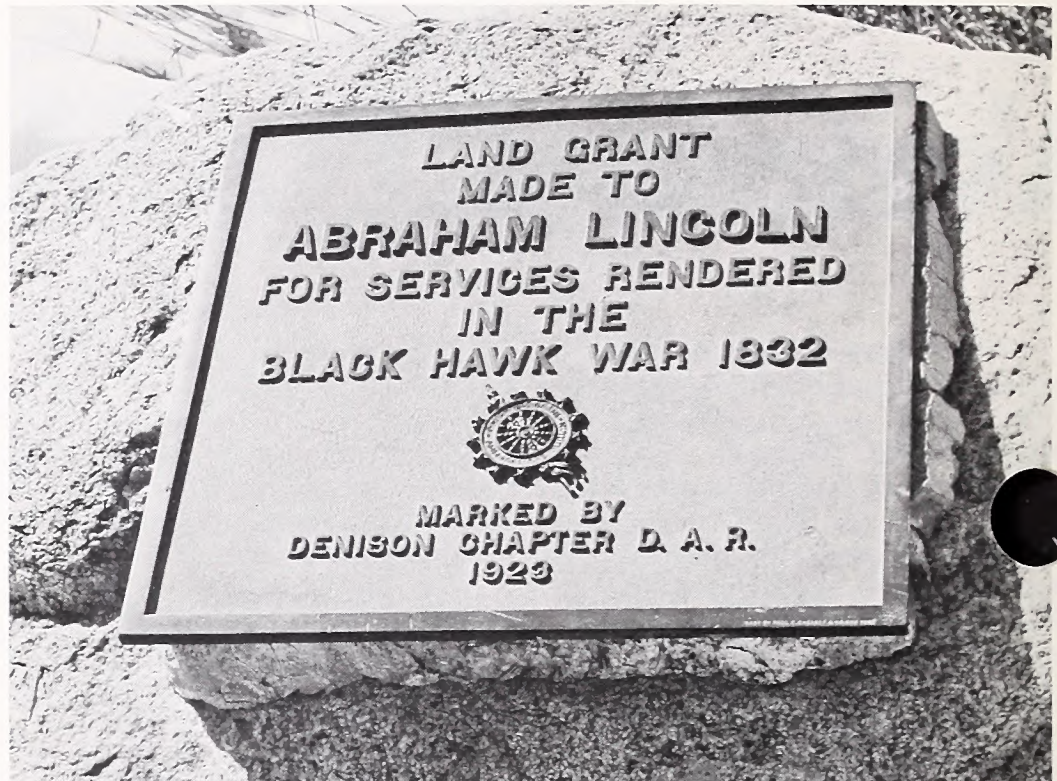
Black Hawk, a deeply embittered man, was a Sauk War Chief who proudly wore a red hand on his ceremonial blanket indicating that he personally had taken a white scalp. Although a war leader of his tribe, Black Hawk was not in the same class as Indian leaders of the past. He did not have the military skills of a Pontiac, nor the gift of diplomacy of a Joseph Brant.

When Tecumseh launched his abortive war in 1812, Black Hawk had been among those who followed the Shawnee Chief into

Canada. After Tecumseh's defeat, Black Hawk remained in Canada trying to enlist British support in his efforts to nullify the Treaty of 1804.

Black Hawk's opposition to the Treaty was based on his conviction that the Chief who had represented the Sauks and the Fox Tribes had been bribed into an unfair

where the Tribe built its summer lodges. Furthermore the whites had taken over cornfields claimed by the Indians and had even plowed up an Indian cemetery. Black Hawk was very angry, but a peace of a sort was restored when the whites suggested that the Indians share the site with them. An uneasy truce



This plaque now marks the site of Lincoln's Crawford County land. During 1976, Bicentennial Committee for Crawford County will make the plaque more accessible to the public.

agreement and on a further personal conviction that land was not a commodity that could be bought or sold.

It is perhaps significant that many Indians did not agree with him and that he was considered a fanatic by neighboring tribes. Although Black Hawk, like Tecumseh, envisioned an Indian confederation that would resist further white encroachment into the west, he was able to gather only about 500 warriors.

In the spring of 1830 Black Hawk and his tribe returned from their winter hunt and found that white squatters had occupied the site

was maintained through the summer until the Indians left the area to go on their winter hunt.

When the Indians returned in the Spring of 1831, they found even more whites occupying the site. This time Black Hawk threatened to massacre the white settlement unless they abandoned the land. To emphasize his threat, he allowed some of his braves to burn a few isolated cabins.

The whites were thoroughly frightened, but instead of leaving

they appealed to Governor John Reynolds of Illinois for military aid. The Governor ordered General Edmund P. Gains to the scene and sent out a call for volunteers.

At this time Abraham Lincoln was a clerk in the general store of Denton Offut in New Salem, Illinois.

Young Lincoln had practical reasons for volunteering. Denton Offut was spending too much time sampling his own Kentucky rye whiskey and the Offut Grocery Store where Lincoln clerked was on its way out of business. The loss of a job didn't particularly bother Lincoln, however, for he had already decided to try for the State legislature. A war record would be an advantage in a political campaign. And so Lincoln volunteered for no loftier reason than self advancement.

During the first week of enlistment, friends from New Salem suggested that Lincoln serve as captain of their company. His only opponent was a sawmill owner named Kirkpatrick, so it was decided that the men would line up behind the one they wanted to command.

Lincoln's line was twice as long as that of Kirkpatrick, and the military unit became officially known in the Illinois Militia Records as "Captain Abraham Lincoln's Company of the First Regiment of the Brigade of Mounted Volunteers."

Without military training himself, Lincoln led these frontiersmen in his own unique way. It is reported that while drilling his men one afternoon he realized that they were approaching a gate four abreast through which only two men side by side could pass. Suddenly Lincoln commanded, "This company is dismissed for two minutes, then it will fall in again on the other side of the gate."

Despite their official designation, Lincoln and his men spent most of the Black Hawk War on foot. Captain Lincoln's Company miscrossed northwestern Illinois, never caught up with the fighting. Once they served as a

burial detail when they came on five men who had been killed and scalped the day before in a skirmish with the Indians. And it is believed that Lincoln saved the life of an old Indian who appeared in camp with a legitimate military pass, but personified the enemy to some trigger-happy soldiers.

When the war was over, Lincoln walked back to New Salem almost the length of Illinois which had not been cultivated or planted during that year of Indian fighting. Young veterans, along with those who had stayed behind, lived on hard cakes made of cornmeal and water until times were better. It would be 1855 before Congress passed an Act issuing scrip to veterans of American wars fought prior to that date. Scrip is "the right to acquire a specified acreage of public lands without any payment and without the necessity of settling or improving the lands." This gift from the government would compensate for the lean times.

Lincoln's Bounty Land Warrant from the Commissioner of Pensions in the Department of the Interior is dated April 22, 1856. Even so, Lincoln seemed in no hurry to exercise the warrant.

After his visit to the offices of Officer and Pusey Bank, Will Pusey became Lincoln's agent and accordingly filed the land warrant with the General Land Office in Council Bluffs. In due time a patent was issued to Abraham Lincoln for 120 acres of public land in Crawford County, Iowa, near the county seat of Denison.

Officer and Pusey served as Lincoln's agents for many years as first Lincoln's taxes, all of \$3.03 for the year of 1864, and later the taxes billed to the Lincoln estate were paid by "O. & P."

Whether Lincoln saw the 120 acres of rolling prairie with two small streams near Denison in 1859 is extremely doubtful. According to Morris McHenry, Surveyor for Crawford County in the 1890's, Officer and Pusey made the entry at the Council Bluffs land office and the 120-acre land warrant was

located December 27, 1859. Lincoln had probably long since returned to Springfield and his law practice.

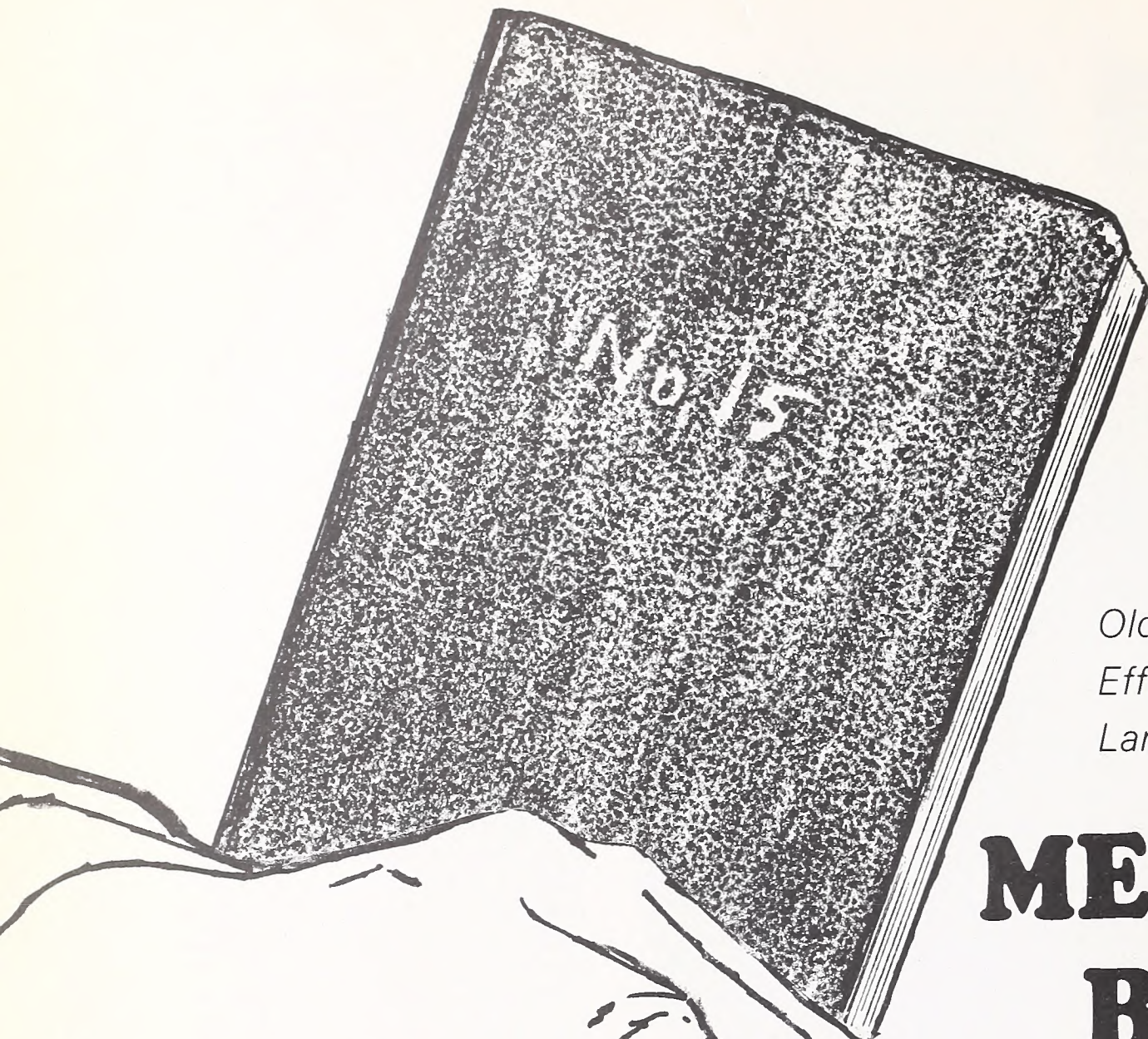
The land was located on "the East half of the North-East quarter and the North-West quarter of the North-East quarter of Section Eighteen in township eighty-four North of Range Thirty-nine west of the Fifth Principal Meridian. The township was named Goodrich." The Lincoln estate held this land until April 26, 1892 when Robert Lincoln, then stationed with the diplomatic corps in London, sold it to Henry Edwards for \$1300. Lincoln died intestate and so the land had gone equally to his wife Mary and his two sons Thomas and Robert. But during those 27 years both Mary and Thomas had died, leaving Robert and his wife Mary as the sole heirs.

The land has been owned by many people since Lincoln assumed it from the public domain and has risen and dropped in value according to the economics of the country. But it still remains farm land after all these years and as such preserves its original identity of one hundred years ago.

Because of various real estate transactions, Mr. Lincoln's land is now divided among three owners—Caroline Hansen, John W. Hansen and Karl Reichert in equal portions of 40 acres each.

The tract has been marked since 1923 when the Denison, Iowa Chapter of the DAR erected a handsome bronze plaque at its edge.

During 1976, the Crawford, County Bicentennial Committee will make improvements to make the plaque more accessible to the public. The monument is now on Mr. Reicherts property about eight miles northwest of Denison and a mile east of Highway 59.



*Old Code Book Shows
Efforts to Keep
Land Office Secrets*

MESSAGES BY CODE



The General Land Office once coded messages telegraphed to its field personnel. This fact came to light when an old code book, dated 1911, was found while cleaning out old files in the Washington Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The book is in excellent condition, and is small, thin and bound in leather to make it durable. It was probably designed to be carried in a coat pocket.

That the code was taken seriously is shown by a warning printed on the flyleaf stating that private possession of the book was unlawful. The cover of the copy we found is marked No. 15, indicating that copies were numbered so that there could be a strict accounting of all books issued.

The coding system is complicated. Some code words are used to represent phrases, others to substitute for words, and for those cases where a word is needed that is not included in the code book, the word can be constructed from a table where a given letter is represented by a code letter.

In addition to this, the suffixes to words are represented by certain code words.

For an example, let us suppose

that a field agent receives a telegram that reads:

LAMPING TREPEGET TAMBAC
SOPHISTER NOST SIDIPU DUASV
SPILTER SOPHISTER NOST
BELAMOAR JASP ABANED ABERR
JASP AMENANCE JASP.

He would turn to his code book for the translation. He would find that LAMPING was code for the phrase, "the Commissioner of the General Land Office." TREPEGET is code for the single word "need," and in context the form "needs" can be assumed. TAMBAC is code for "information," SOPHISTER is code for the word "concern," but the following word NOST indicates that the suffix "ing" should be added to the previous word, hence we have "concerning."

The code words SIDIPU DUASV are code words built from the letter substitution tables. SIDIPU is translated "recent" and DUASV stands for "court." SPILTER is code for the word "decision." SOPHISTER NOST again is "concerning," BELAMOAR represents the phrase "final desert entry" and JASP represents a punctuation mark, the period.

ABANED is another code for a phrase: in this case "direct a special agent to." ABERR is also a phrase to "report at once." JASP is another

period and finally AMENANCE is code for "answer by wire."

Once the field agent put it all together, he had the message, "The Commissioner of the General Land Office needs information concerning the recent court decision concerning final desert land entries. Send an agent to report at once. Answer by wire."

Why was the code necessary? It was designed at a time when the telegraph represented the fastest means of communication between Washington and the General Land Office's many field offices. There was a real danger that messages would be leaked by the operator at the other end of the wire, or by one of his employees.

Messages often contained information of monetary value to persons who had thus gained a foreknowledge of events. Other messages also pertained to matters involving criminal prosecution. Forewarned, a violator could easily leave the country prior to his arrest.

In all such cases the code served a useful function. As the telephone became more common and messages over the telephone became more secure, the use of the telegraph fell into disuse and with the telephone the need for the code disappeared.

On February 15, 1975, The Secretary of Interior announced that the Bureau of Land Management would assume jurisdiction over three Game Ranges. The three were the Kofa Game Range in Arizona, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range in Montana.

In the following article, BLM Director Curt Berklund describes game ranges and tells what is ahead as BLM assumes the future management of these three special areas.

The Game Ranges

*Expanding Vistas for
BLM's Wildlife Program*



Near the mouth of Thousand Creek Gorge on the Sheldon Antelope Range, steep sided canyons open on a broad open valley. Hidden water holes furnish water for the area's wildlife.

Traveling across the rolling plains of north-central Montana is somewhat reminiscent of a boat trip across a restful sea. In all directions, the land is apparently flat and gentle—gentle, that is, until you come over a rise to be struck by an awesome violence of terrain.

Wave upon wave of high, seemingly patternless ridges clash as in a cross current, and deep, weirdly eroded canyons and coulees thread the land in a maze out of a madman's nightmare.

These are the so-called Missouri "Breaks," a river and wind-carved region that knew the clash of primitive weapons as plains warriors fought over rich hunting grounds, filled pages in the journals of Lewis and Clark, and echoed with the haunting sound of steamboat whistles as paddlewheels moved needed supplies towards the rich diggings' of Last Chance, Alder Gulch, and Grasshopper.

Much of the Breaks country is relatively quiet now. Adventurous boatmen drift the lonely upper reaches where the river still flows free, frequently surprising deer, eagles and other animals along the winding shores. Farther down, the river valley is filled with sprawling Fort Peck Reservoir, an almost undiscovered recreation bonanza touched by improved roads in only a few places.

The Missouri River crosses a landscape that has been changed by the hand of man. At one time, the area supported a much larger population than it does today. Homesteaders, wood cutters, and crews of steamboats and other river traffic contributed to changes in what was once a pristine eco-system.

Today, there are abandoned homesites and rusting farm machinery to tell the story of how men were forced to abandon the

CURT BERKLUND
Director, Bureau of
Land Management

area after they had exhausted its limited resources. Here and there, we find a lonely grave that tells a grimmer story.

As settlers deserted the land, Nature began its healing process and wild animals returned to the deserted homesteads.

The wild animals, including mule and white-tailed deer, antelope, elk, and bighorn sheep, remain part of the Breaks scene, along with prairie dogs, prairie grouse, falcons, coyotes, and the occasional rattlesnake.

Here also, a few years back, was one of the last recorded sightings of the blackfooted ferret. Is this rare and endangered species still a part of this isolated and untouched breaks region, or is it just something noted in passing? Only a watchful eye and patience will tell.

Because of the wildlife values represented there, almost a million acres surrounding the Fort Peck reservoir were set aside in 1936 for the conservation and development of natural wildlife resources and for the protection and improvement of public grazing lands and natural forage resources."

Originally designated as the Fort Peck Game Range but now named the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range, it is but one of five similar ranges established by Executive Order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the 1930's.

The other ranges are the Kofa and the Cabeza Prieta in Arizona, and the Desert and the Charles Sheldon in Nevada. Together they total 4,658,180 acres of habitat which supports great numbers and varieties of wildlife.

As originally established, all five ranges were to be under dual administration of two Federal agencies—the U.S. Biological Survey which was then in the Department of Agriculture, and the Grazing Service of the Department of the Interior. In 1939, the U.S.

Biological Survey became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Interior Department, and in 1946, the Grazing Service and the old General Land Office were consolidated into the Bureau of Land Management, also in Interior.

Both the new agencies continued the game range responsibilities of their predecessors—the Fish and Wildlife Service managing the wildlife resources while the Bureau of Land Management took care of livestock grazing, fire protection, mineral exploration and leasing, and cultural and archeological values.

But over the years it became obvious that even the best efforts of both agencies were often frustrated as a result of "separate but equal" management responsibilities. Agency charters, basic authorities, and management policies differed, even though management objectives were established by one executive order.

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS

At the time this issue of Our Public Lands went to press, a U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., issued an interim order temporarily delaying implementation of the decision to shift management of the game ranges to BLM. A later hearing was scheduled on a suit brought by environmental groups, which contended that the ranges should be managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Big Horn Sheep are found on the Kofa and the Charles M. Russell Game Ranges. Desert Big Horn are native to the Kofa Range. Rocky Mountain Big Horn were once extinct on the Charles M. Russell Range, but have since been reintroduced.



This lonely grave, protected by a cage of iron bars also tells us that men once came to settle these wild lands. In search of a future, they have become a part of the Charles Russell Range's historic past.



The fleet Prong Horns of the Charles Sheldon ranges.

The Desert Game Range in Nevada provided the first step towards a solution in 1966, when 1,588,000 acres of key wildlife habitat were turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and 412,000 acres of multiple-use lands, including wildlife habitat, were turned over to BLM for management.

Joint efforts were made during the next several years in an attempt to solve administrative problems of the other four ranges, and various management proposals were considered.

Then, on February 5, 1975, the Secretary of the Interior gave his decision. The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona would be administered exclusively by the Fish and Wildlife Service, while the Bureau of Land Management would have exclusive jurisdiction over the Kofa Game Range in Arizona, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada, and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range in Montana.

The Secretary's decision was predicated on the fact that wildlife species within the ranges assigned to BLM have similar, if not the same, types of habitat as those on surrounding National Resource Lands under BLM administration. The majority of these animals are resident species.

Currently, on the surrounding National Resource Lands, BLM works closely with State agencies in wildlife management—States managing the species while BLM manages the habitat. This intermix of wildlife values and multiple-use



Water is always the limiting factor for wildlife on the Kofa. Natural water holes like this one are vital to the wildlife population.

A lonely barren road found the only palm



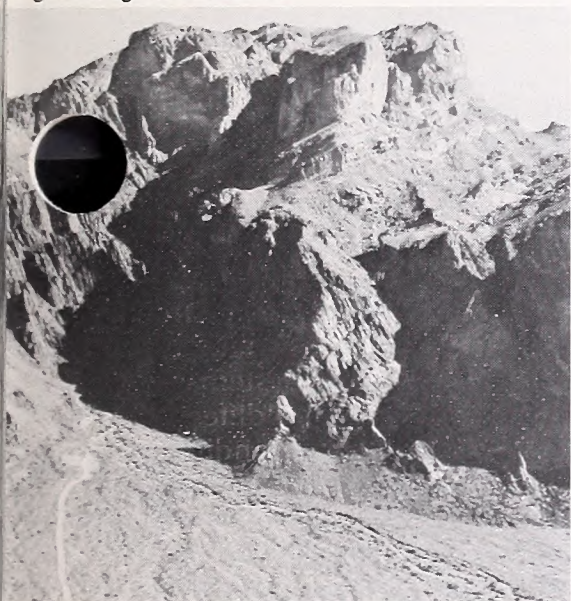
Only the erosion of countless waterways distinguish between the rocky craigs of the Kofa Game Range and the austere landscape of the moon.





Antelope are native to Charles Russell game

*s to the Kofa's Palm Canyon. Here are
es growing in Arizona.*



A lonely rock hounder pauses on the Kofa to examine a specimen before adding it to his collection.

resources both on and adjacent to the ranges pointed to BLM as the logical agency to administer the areas.

The three ranges assigned to BLM will continue to have wildlife as the dominant use, and all other uses will be subordinate to and managed so as not to conflict with that use. BLM will be able to utilize its wide base of expertise—wildlife biologists, fishery biologists, watershed specialists, recreation planners, range conservationists, mineral specialists, and others—to assure that all management techniques will be used to support the wildlife dominant use philosophy.

Also included in the process leading to the Secretary's decision was the fact that the Desert Range and Cabeza Prieta Refuge, now under sole jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service, are partially covered by military withdrawals,



Here on the Charles M. Russell Range the Missouri River is the architect of a rugged landscape. In sheltered drainages, conifers timidly invade the arid grasslands.

reducing the need of a broad mix of expertise for sound management.

All three of the areas will still be managed under the game range concept as set forth in their original executive orders. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act will continue to be the basic authority for management of the three ranges, and wildlife will continue as the dominant use.

The Interior Secretary said that the decision assigning BLM exclusive responsibilities in the three game ranges was made with the full consideration that all three contain potential wilderness areas. In the event Congress acts to create such wilderness areas, they would be managed under the Wilderness Act. BLM has already initiated action to withdraw portions of the Charles Sheldon Range and all of the Charles M. Russell Range from entry under the 1872 Mining Law as an interim protective measure pending final wilderness recommendations.

The Kofa was withdrawn from both mineral entry and mineral leasing when the joint wilderness proposal for the range was submitted in 1974.

The Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, named after the famous explorer, big game hunter, and prime mover in pronghorn conservation efforts, totals some 539,000 acres in the high desert region of northwestern Nevada with a small part in southern Oregon. It was established in 1931 in response to public concern over what was then believed to be near extinction of the pronghorn.

Approximately 1,700 of the speedy pronghorns winter on the Sheldon, and about 800 are year-round residents. Deer, bobcat, coyotes and other native mammals also live on the Sheldon Range. Bighorn sheep, which disappeared from the area by 1930, were reintroduced in 1968. More than 145 species of birds have been recorded in the area.

White men first tried to move into the Sheldon Range area in 1840, but resistance from the Paiute



An ill-groomed wild burro surveys the intruding cameraman. He is at home on the Kofa Game Range.

Indians discouraged settlement. A few ranches took hold after nearby Fort McGarry was established in 1866. The overgrazing and indiscriminate shooting that followed settlement caused a serious loss of wildlife until establishment of the range.

The Fort Peck Game Range, renamed the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range in 1963 as a tribute to the famous western artist, was once part of the hunting grounds for the Crow, Blackfoot, Sioux, and Nez Perce Tribes. When established in 1963, the range supported only three big game species. Elk and bighorn sheep have been reintroduced, while the white-tailed deer, mule deer, and antelope populations have continued to grow.

More than 45 species of mammals and 210 species of birds have been recorded on the Russell Range and some of the widely scattered prairie dog towns may well sustain a few of the nearly extinct black-footed ferret.

If, through careful analysis, BLM finds suitable habitat on the Russell range for the black-footed ferret,



A BLM field crew examines habitat for Big Horn Sheep on the Kofa.

aggressive actions will be taken to protect this sanctuary, including the possibility of a reintroduction of the species from other areas.

The Russell Range supports considerable livestock grazing, allowed under the Executive Order after wildlife needs are met. Grazing management systems designed to improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions are being advanced.

Scenery, wildlife, and historic sites on the range and the Fort Peck Reservoir provide a variety of recreational opportunities, and more and more persons are visiting the area to camp, swim, boat, and see the wildlife.

Most of the range is open to hunting, with mule deer being the most common species.

Recreational visits to the Russell Range and the Fort Peck Reservoir are expected to increase as the area becomes better known.

The Kofa Game Range is in rugged desert mountain terrain where the average rainfall is only about five inches a year. There are no permanent streams or lakes

within this 663,700-acre area, but several high mountain tanks constructed under overhanging cliffs or ledges to reduce evaporation provide some essential water for the majestic desert bighorn sheep. In fact, water is the controlling factor for most wildlife use of the Kofa. Stockwater developments at lower elevations also benefit various wildlife species.

Elevations in the Kofa Range vary from 800 to 3700 feet. Winters are mild, but summer temperatures can soar to more than 120 degrees.

Major wildlife species living on the Kofa include desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, collared peccary or javelina, and mountain lion, plus many smaller mammals. The desert bighorn population has doubled since the range was established in 1939.

The Kofa abounds in Gambel's quail, while mourning and whitewing doves are common. There is a sizeable population of wild burros, and BLM has research underway to determine conflicts between wild burros, bighorn sheep, and other game species. The mighty saguaro cactus, Arizona's State flower, grows to 40 feet high on the range, and a few canyons in the Kofa Mountains support the only wild palms in the State.

The Kofa Range was once home to ancient Indian tribes, and archaeological values are high.

The Kofa Game Range supports some livestock grazing that will be carefully controlled to prevent any potential conflict with wildlife. Normally the Kofa Game Range is

only grazed by domestic livestock one out of five years when there is sufficient annual vegetative response to rainfall.

As specified in the establishing Executive Orders, the game ranges—Kofa, Charles Sheldon, and Charles M. Russell—will be managed for the primary benefit of wildlife. All other resource uses will be subordinate to that use and will not conflict with it.

Each of these game ranges will be administered as separate units. BLM manages thousands of acres that surround the ranges. These lands are a part of the same or of a similar eco-system. Furthermore, land use patterns, native species of wildlife, and other features are similar, and should be managed in conjunction with the range. This would include any grazing allotments that extend across range boundaries, any access roads that would impact management objectives, and any other activity involving game range lands and resources.

Management of the game ranges will involve cooperation of State conservation agencies, particularly in regulation of public hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-oriented recreation. Also, the game ranges will now come under the Bureau's planning process in developing plans for the primary, wildlife use of the ranges. This planning system involves public participation so all viewpoints may be considered in management decisions.

The public will have ample opportunity to express its views on management of these ranges to assure responsive stewardship for these unique and outstanding wildlife areas.

Rusting farm machinery serves as a reminder that men once tried to settle the rugged Charles M. Russell range. The land here is non-agricultural. Efforts to cultivate, have invariably failed.



This section of the Mojave Road descending Piute Hill is described as one of the worst sections encountered by wagon drivers in the west. Here BLM employees inspect the condition of the old trail and wagon road.



Wagon ruts made more than a century ago in the California Desert provide a link between the present and the void of prehistory.

The wheel tracks mark part of a trail that apparently had its origin thousands of years ago. The route began at the Colorado River north of Needles and extended westward more than 250 miles—across the Mojave Desert, through Cajon Pass north of San Bernardino and on to the Pacific Ocean.

The trail was used by Mojave runners in a brisk trade of plant food items, shells, asphaltum and salt between inland and coastal Indians.

Wagon Ruts in the California Desert Provide a Link with the Pre-Historic Past.

MOJAVE



Dennis Casebier, historian of the Mojave Road stands at the edge of a wagon rut made more than a century ago. The hoof prints were made by livestock and burros.

TOM EVANS
Information Specialist
BLM State Office
Sacramento, Calif.

The Mojave runner is credited with great endurance. It is reported he could cross the Mojave Desert from the Colorado to the San Bernardino Mountains in only a few days.

The end of this commerce was signaled as another people, 3,000 miles away, were sending delegates to Philadelphia to assert a Declaration of Independence.

Fr. Francisco Garces and his small retinue appeared on the Mojave Trail in March, 1776. He was looking for routes to permit better communications between the missions then being established in California and the older Spanish settlements in Sonora, Mexico; Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Subsequent growth of the mission system brought an end to the Mojave trade.

Importance of the desert route was not diminished, however. For another hundred years it would be the setting for a varied pageant of history. The trail would serve beaver trappers—one of them named Jedediah Smith—countless prospectors, a successful experiment to use camels in transporting goods, and numerous

military operations before, during, and after the Civil War.

The silence that reigned when only Mojaves used the trail returned in 1877. In that year, well to the south, Southern Pacific opened its railroad from Yuma to San Bernardino. The old Indian trail across the Mojave has since gone by many names including the Mojave Road and the Old Government Road. It has been traveled by all kinds of men and was the scene of historic and mundane events.

The information about the Trail comes from Dennis Casebier of Norco, California, who has written

site. The threat to a place like Pah-Ute Creek is much less than it once was because there isn't much left to destroy. The stone walls of old Fort Pah-Ute that stood five or six feet high only a few years ago are now mostly a pile of rubble.

"The pressing problem now is to attempt to preserve the integrity of the road itself. If the road can be saved, then later, as its importance and value become recognized, funds might be made available to restore some of the sites. But if the road itself is lost, then all is lost.

"The threats to the road are large scale "improvements" like pipelines, freeways, underground

vehicles along the route would obliterate its character. Those who already know some or all of the route can help by keeping their vehicles well away from the trail and going to it only on foot.

The Board of Supervisors and the Bicentennial Committee of San Bernardino County have adopted a project that would include a re-enactment "Trek of the Centuries" march along the road in the spring of 1976, to commemorate historic and prehistoric events along the route.

The two agencies soon will ask for endorsement of the project by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of California. The San Bernardino County groups also will seek designation of the route as a National Hiking Trail.

In the meantime, BLM's Riverside District Manager, Del Vail, has directed his staff to take all possible steps to help preserve what is left of the trail. He noted that the Vehicle Management Plan adopted in November, 1973, provides protection for the route.

American history on the Mojave Desert segment of the trail began in the 1820's when Jedediah Smith and other beaver trappers came to the region in search of pelts. When Smith passed over the road in 1826 en route to California, he became the first American to travel overland from the United States to California.

In 1853-54 the Federal government began sending out parties to determine if there was a practical route for a railroad to the West Coast.

One of the parties, led by Lt. Amiel Weeks Whipple, started out from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and traveled along a parallel that brought them into contact with the Mojave Trail. He later reported that the route was suitable for a wagon road or a railroad. His voluminous reports—and other similar reports—were filed.

A more spectacular event occurred in 1857. It was incidental to the government's decision to go into the wagon road business. One of these roads was to run along part of Whipple's route from Fort Defiance, N.M., to the Colorado

DESERT ROAD

three books about military operations along the trail and is in process of writing others.

Casebier's job takes him frequently to Washington, D. C., where he spends spare time gleaning old Army records. He expects his history of 19th Century military activities along the route eventually will total a dozen books.

Casebier began his study about 15 years ago, gradually learning the location of the route and finding the rock wall remains of Army outposts along the way.

"The ruins at the sites along the old Mojave Road are more than one-hundred years old," he said.

"With respect to their deterioration, I would estimate that more damage has been done to them in the last decade than was done during the first ninety years of their existence. Some of this is deliberate and some accidental. In either case, it seems to me to be a natural result of the tremendous increase in the visitation to the area.

"Ten years ago you could spend four or five days at one of these sites and chances are you wouldn't see another soul. Now at the better-known places—like Pah-Ute (Piute Creek)—there's a steady flow of people in and out and around the

telephone cables, highlines, range fences, and other developments, and off-road vehicles.

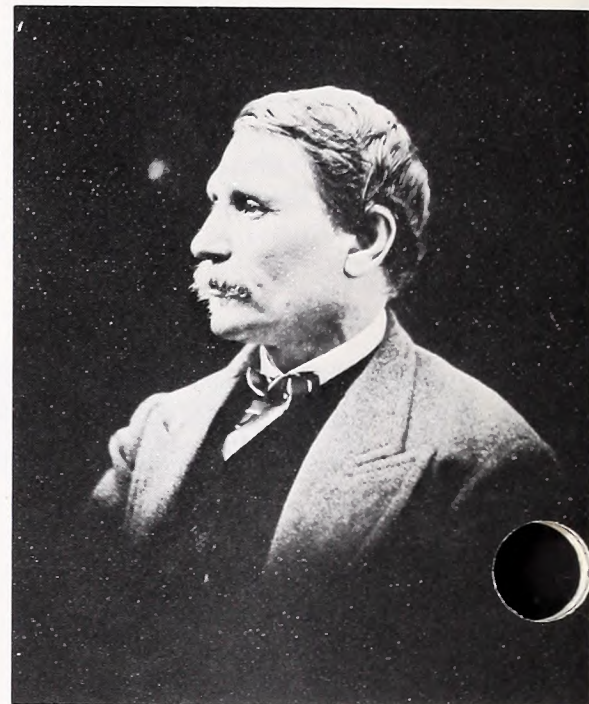
"Right now we've got a 130-mile stretch of the old road to the crossing of the Colorado at Fort Mojave that could become a remarkable hiking trail with scenic and natural and historical attractions unsurpassed anywhere in the desert. But, if the threats mentioned above are permitted to run indiscriminately wherever the developers choose, cutting the trace of the old road at will, then its integrity (already threatened) will be destroyed and it will be lost to us forever."

Some of the outposts are on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Most of the trail is on BLM land. We will identify only one of the outposts—"Fort" Piute. This former military camp, about 20 miles west of the Colorado River, already is well known, heavily visited and frequently vandalized.

The reason for not disclosing where the other outposts are—and how to find them—is to prevent heavy use that cannot be controlled. An influx of off-road



A mixed caravan of horses and camels pauses at a river crossing in this painting by Marjot. The caravan was a part of an experiment in the use of camels as beasts of burden in the Southwest desert. Here the horses drink thirstily while the camels stand aloof. (Photo—Trust for Historical Preservation.)



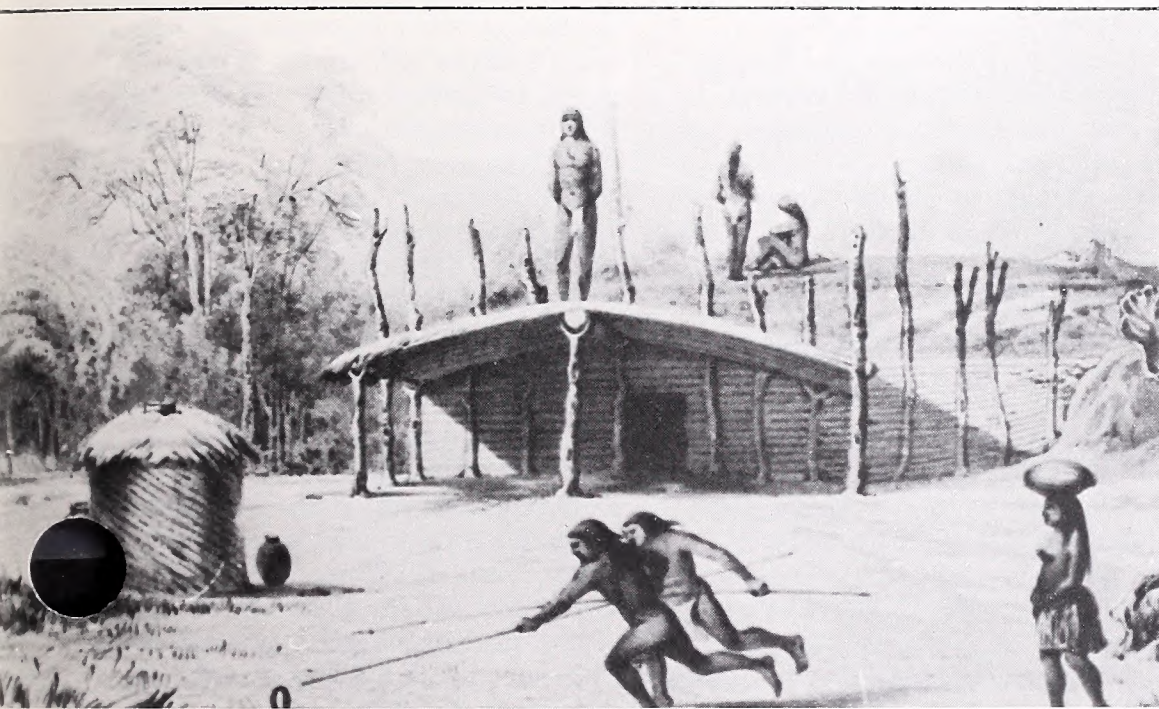
Edward F. Beal carried out a successful experiment with the use of camels in the southwest desert. (Photo courtesy of the California Historical Society.)



Another Mollhausen painting shows a Mojave warrior in a pensive mood. The Mojave were noted traders and fighters.

This painting by Henrich Mollhausen depicts members of the Whipple Expedition ferrying supplies across the Colorado River in 1854. Mollhausen was a member of the Expedition.





A Mojave Village scene from a painting by Mollhausen



River. It was assumed that a wagon road already existed along the Mojave Trail.

Through the instigation of Jefferson Davis, then U.S. Secretary of War and, later, President of the Confederate States, the government decided to experiment with camels for desert transport. Davis obtained appropriations in 1856 and 1857 for the experiment. His service as Secretary of War ended just as the test was about to begin.

A former Navy Lieutenant, Edward Fitzgerald Beale, was appointed superintendent of the wagon road exploration. He also was directed to obtain 25 camels that had been imported to Camp Verde, Texas.

Beale already had been quite active in California. He had served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the State and owned the Tejon Ranch, present day site of Fort Tejon near Bakersfield.

In a letter dated September 27, 1857, Beale made a report on the use of camels to the new Secretary of War, John B. Floyd. Casebier obtained a copy of the letter from the National Archives and believes it has not been previously published. The report, written about 100 miles east of the Colorado River, said in part: "I cannot sufficiently express my admiration of that noble brute, the Camel; and I look forward confidently to the day, when they will be found in general use in all parts of the country. The idea that their feet would break down in travelling over rocky ground, is an exploded absurdity. In all the explorations, over the roughest possible volcanic rock, they have been with us patiently packing

water, of which they never drank a drop, & corn of which they never tasted a grain."

While the reports might have been extravagant, Beale was convincing in his recommendation for continued use of camels. He went to Washington the following year and got a new appropriation.

As reports of Beale's activities spread, emigrants began to develop interest in the Mojave route. It was to be a short lived interest.

In the summer of 1858, an emigrant wagon train left Iowa and followed Beale's route across New Mexico and Arizona to the Colorado River. When the wagons neared the populous Mojave villages north of Needles, the emigrants were attacked by Indians. A number of the people were killed and the emigrants lost most of their property. They fled back toward the east, spreading word of the attack.

"The Mojave route was killed as an emigrant trail before it got started," Casebier said.

The impudence of the Indians could not be tolerated. Early in 1859, the military command in California sent 50 men of Companies B and K, 1st Dragoons, over the Mojave Road to select a site for a post near the Indian villages. The Mojaves attacked and drove the soldiers away.

Events began to multiply. The Mojaves would have to be taught a stern lesson. Extensive preparations for that campaign were started at the Presidio in San Francisco.

Far more ominous, though, was the depth of ill feeling among men who had skin of the same color. Sides were choosing up for America's most calamitous conflict—the Civil War.

One of the victims of this preoccupation was the camel experiment. The animals were thriving at Beale's Tejon Ranch. Casebier said many camels were born and raised there. They proved themselves useful as carriers of cargo and riders, but there were drawbacks.

Horses and mules did not mix with camels. The main advocate of the camel experiment, Mr. Davis, had turned his thinking to a larger design.

"There was a problem with the teamsters themselves," Casebier said. "They had no patience with these strange beasts. They refused to learn something new. In short, they successfully resisted a most valuable innovation."

Casebier estimates there were about 100 camels in the West at the peak. There was a tendency to use them in out of the way places where they would not conflict with horses and mules. Eventually, the camels were sold to circuses or released into the wild.

There is evidence the released camels reproduced. Sightings in remote corners of the desert have been reported down to recent times.

For at least hundreds of years before the white man came, the Mojaves thrived as farmers along the banks of the Colorado River between the Needles and Cottonwood Valley, a distance of 50 miles.

The Mojaves were comparatively numerous. Their population in the early 1800's was estimated at about 5,000. When they considered the occasion serious enough, they could muster 1,000 warriors.

They were healthy and had well developed athletic bodies. Early travelers said the average size of the men was over six feet. They wore a simple loincloth or nothing. The women were short. They wore only brief skirts made of bark strips.

The Mojave's weapons were the longbow and war club. He preferred to fight at close quarters with the club. As long as he fought other Indians, he was supreme.

In his earliest contacts with white men—Oñate in 1604 and Garces in 1776—the Mojave was confident, friendly and generous.

Then the Mojave's reputation took a turn for the worse. The Spanish Missionary system interfered with his trade with other Indians along the coast. When the Mojave resisted this encroachment, he became known as a "troublemaker."

Attempts by Spanish troops—sent out from San Gabriel Mission through Cajon Pass—to chastise the Mojaves were ineffectual. The soldiers were not eager to enter the unknown Mojave Desert and never came closer than 100 miles to the Mojave homeland.

Jedediah Strong Smith probably was the first American to enter the Mojave villages. He and his party of trappers visited the area en route to California in 1826 and received good treatment. When he went to the area the following year things had changed.

Another party of trappers had gone to the village between Smith's trips. A fight had taken place and a number of Indians were killed. The Mojaves' desire for revenge extended to Smith and his party on their second visit.

When Smith's party divided to cross the Colorado, with nine of their 19 people on a raft, the Indians attacked the remaining 10 and killed them. Smith escaped to report the incident. In a short time the Mojave was known throughout the West as "treacherous and hostile."

During the next 30 years the pace of the white man's exploration increased. The Mojaves became concerned that their land was being coveted. This concern was heightened by several Mormon explorations into the Colorado Valley.

Late in June, 1858, the first party of emigrants planning to use Edward F. Beale's road to the Pacific Coast left Albuquerque. For nearly two months, they toiled across New Mexico and Arizona. Late in August they arrived at the Mojave villages at the Colorado River crossing.

The Indians repeatedly asked the emigrants about their strength and whether they expected to settle along the river. It appears that the Americans did not realize how serious the questions were.

On August 30, part of the emigrants were at the river working on rafts. Some were camped in the

mountains several miles to the east. The Mojaves attacked those at the river. The number of warriors was estimated at several hundred to a thousand.

The emigrants were small in number but had superior firepower. Nine of them were killed and a number wounded but they were able to control their retreat. There was no report of Indian losses. The emigrants were forced to abandon most of their stock, wagons and other property.

When they reached the rest of their party in the mountains, a hard choice had to be made. Their goal, California, was just across the river. But the way was blocked by Mojaves. The other alternative was return to Albuquerque with greatly depleted transportation and meager provisions. They took the latter choice.

Casebier said the sacrifice and suffering of the emigrants in their great across northern Arizona is most without parallel in the history of the West. The attack finished Beale's wagon road as an emigrant route. But a more important result—ominous for the Mojave—emerged. The Indians had committed an act—in nature and magnitude—that could not be ignored by the military.

The Army was not in a hurry, however. Almost three months later, on November 26, the commander of the Department of California, General Clarke, acted. He issued an order in San Francisco for Maj. William Hoffman to lead an expedition to the Colorado River, establish a post, and determine what should be done to punish the Mojaves.

Nearly six weeks later Hoffman arrived at the Colorado with 50 men of Companies B and K, 1st Dragoons, from Fort Tejon. Almost immediately there was a clash with the Indians. A few Mojaves were killed. Hoffman had no casualties, but the Mojaves retained possession of the crossing.

Hoffman pulled out. He decided it would take a much larger force to defeat the Mojaves. He also concluded the expedition should not move over the Mojave Road but

assemble at Fort Yuma, march northward along the Colorado and receive support from steamers on the river. His recommendations were accepted by the Department Commander and Hoffman was put in charge of the expedition.

The forces to be assembled included Companies C, F, H, and I of the 6th Infantry, stationed at San Francisco. They embarked on the steamship "Uncle Sam" on February 16 for San Diego. There they picked up Company G of the same regiment. They put ashore 200 mules to be taken overland to Yuma via the southern emigrant trail—the same route used by the Butterfield Overland Mail. The "Uncle Sam" then headed south around the tip of Baja and northward into the Gulf of California. The troops moved up the gulf to the mouth of the Colorado River and on to Yuma.

Companies E and K of the 6th Infantry left Cajon Pass February 14 for Yuma. They marched over the Butterfield route and arrived at Yuma about two weeks later. Company F of the 3rd Artillery, stationed at Yuma, also took part in the operation.

Hoffman spent the month of March bringing together his force of 600 men, hundreds of animals and tons of supplies at the base camp north of Yuma.

He finally arrived at the Mojave stronghold on April 18. The Indians made a quick decision. They couldn't compete with such a strong force, and there was nothing but desert to escape to. They surrendered without a fight.

The Mojave chiefs and Hoffman held a grand council April 23, 1859. The Indians agreed to the establishment of military posts and roads by the Americans and to refrain from harming lives and property of the whites. The immediate result was creation of "Camp Colorado," soon to be called Fort Mojave.

Capt. Lewis A. Armistead remained at the crossing with

Companies F and I of the 6th Infantry and a detachment of the 3rd Artillery to man the fort. The rest of the troops departed, some marching overland by the Mojave Road, the rest going by steamer to Yuma.

Early in August, after a series of minor incidents, a force of 50 men led by Armistead clashed with an estimated several hundred Mojaves. The Indians fought with courage but their weapons were inadequate. Twenty-three Indians reportedly were killed; three of Armistead's men were wounded. For several weeks, Armistead sent out patrols, hunting Indians, burning rancherias and destroying crops. By the end of August, the Mojaves had enough. In the peace talks they were forced to give up land in a bend of the river south of the fort.

"Depriving the Mojaves of a part of their homeland effectively crushed their spirit," Casebier said, "and this action marks the end of their existence as an autonomous nation. Armistead had been among them long enough to realize what the result of this condition would be. They could have taken any other form of punishment in their stride.

"Warfare, suffering and starvation were specters the Mojaves had faced and survived before. But the white man's action in setting aside a part of Mojave Valley and requiring that no Mojave set his foot there without specific permission was a blow they were not prepared to deal with. Their institutions and their physical power had failed. They were beaten."



Dennis Casebier poses beside Bishop's Rock. Casebier had earlier discovered the rock and recognized its significance as a relic of the Mojave Road.



A BLM helicopter rescues a portion of Bishop's Rock, hauling it to safety with net and sling. The rock will be stored for possible restoration.

BLM Rescues Historic Bishop's Rock

Pieces of an historic boulder vandalized at Fort Piute in the California Desert have been recovered by helicopter from the canyon of Piute Creek.

The boulder was inscribed with the name "S. A. Bishop" in the spring of 1859. Samuel Addison Bishop, for whom the City of Bishop, California, later was named, carved his name in the rock at the time of the Army's campaign against the Mojave Nation, which was located 20 miles to the east on the Colorado River.

Pieces of the boulder have been taken from the eastern San Bernardino County site to BLM's Riverside District Office for reconstruction. The artifact might eventually be restored to its original location if protection can be provided.

The boulder, weighing about 1,500 pounds, was part of a defensive wall built by Bishop at the edge of the 40-foot cliff overlooking Piute Creek. The site is several hundred yards from the ruins of Fort Piute, which was built in 1867-68.

Bishop was a partner of Edward F. Beale, who had an assignment from the Secretary of War to construct a wagon road which joined the Mojave Road at the Colorado River. Beale also carried out a successful experiment to use camels for transport in the western desert.

In early 1859, Beale was moving westward from Albuquerque toward the Mojave villages on the Colorado River with his road building party. He had Bishop obtain supplies in Los Angeles and

carry them over the Mojave Road. The supply party included 43 heavily armed men, 10 camels, two six-mule wagons and a number of pack mules. Their mission was to cross the Colorado at the Mojave villages and meet Beale in Arizona.

The Mojaves opposed Bishop's crossing with an estimated 1,000 warriors. After a four-day confrontation, Bishop retired to Piute Creek. He sent messengers south to request help from an Army column which was moving north along the Colorado to subdue the Mojaves. The Army sent word that it could not spare any troops.

While he waited for a reply—from March 23 to April 7—he constructed his small defensive wall and had his party work on the road. It is believed he inscribed his name in the boulder during this period.

Bishop cached 6,000 pounds of supplies at the site and sent the wagons and half the men back to Los Angeles. He took 20 men mounted on camels and mules and some supplies on a sweep 50 miles to the north to avoid the Mojaves. He was attacked after crossing the river but despite odds of 10 to 1, defeated the Indians and met Beale. When they arrived back at the Mojave villages, the Army column was there and had the Mojaves under control. The hungry troops meanwhile had found the 6,000 pounds of supplies and had taken them.

Bishop, who had been a partner with Beale at Tejon Ranch, later operated a ranch in northern Inyo County. The village that resulted

from his activities became the City of Bishop. He also was involved in various enterprises in San Jose, Calif., where he took up residence in April, 1867. Bishop died there in 1893.

The boulder with his inscription was discovered in May 1973, by Casebier. Apparently the historic significance of the boulder was unknown until then.

Sometime early this year, the boulder was pushed over the cliff and broke up at the edge of the creek. Casebier found the broken boulder and notified BLM. Casebier said the vandalism must have been the work of a group of people because one person could not have moved the boulder. He said he believes it unlikely that those who committed the act knew they were destroying something of historic importance.

Casebier said he knows where there are other valuable inscriptions and artifacts in the Mojave Desert that are just as vulnerable to accidental or deliberate destruction.

"The basic problem," he said, "is simply a question of providing intensive management of the entire eastern Mojave Desert. Right now, use of this remarkable recreational land is almost entirely uncontrolled. We can come and go as we please and use the desert and its resources as we please. The result is that those resources are being consumed at an alarming rate. The desert will not exist in present form in just a few more years. Active management is needed, and it is needed now."



Adjoining landowners have first rights in purchasing public land advertised for sale, and in many cases will prefer to exercise this right.

Eastern States

Virtually no public domain lands in the Eastern States are available for public sale. Should any of these lands become available in the future, sale notices will be listed when the sales are scheduled. The Eastern States include all States east of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Alaska

Public lands in Alaska are not available for sale at this time. Future public land sales will be announced in this space when scheduled.

California

40 acre parcel in Monterey County near Los Padres National Forest. Portion nearly level and suitable for home-site. No public road access. Appraised at \$16,000. Identified as S 4370.

7 parcels in San Benito County, from 75 to 124 acres per parcel. Rough brushy land in general. No public road access. Appraised at approximately \$65.00 per acre. Identified as S 3863 and CA 1718.

This is a compilation of the most up-to-date information possible on up-coming sales of public lands by State Offices of the Bureau of Land Management. For details of land descriptions, prices, and other information pertinent to sales, you must write the individual State Office concerned. In most cases, there are adjoining landowners who have statutory preference rights and may wish to exercise them to buy the land. Sales notices will point out, insofar as possible, problems relating to (1) access, (2) adjoining owner preference rights, (3) small-tract sales limitation of one per customer, and other pertinent information. When possible, all sales are scheduled far enough in advance so ample notice can be given in Our Public Lands. Sales listed can be canceled on short notice for administrative and technical reasons. A listing of BLM State Offices with addresses is found on this page.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALASKA:
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99501

District Manager
P.O. Box 1150
Fairbanks, Alaska
99701

ARIZONA:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 3022
Phoenix, Ariz. 85025

CALIFORNIA:
2800 Cottage Way,
Room E-2841
Sacramento, Calif.
95825

COLORADO:
1600 Broadway
Room 700
Denver, Colo. 80202

IDAHO:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 334
550 W. Fort St.
Boise, Idaho 83702

MONTANA (N. Dak.,
S. Dak.):
Federal Bldg.
316 North 26th St.
Billings, Mont. 59101

NEVADA:
Federal Bldg.,
300 Booth St.
Reno, Nev. 89502

NEW MEXICO (Okla.):
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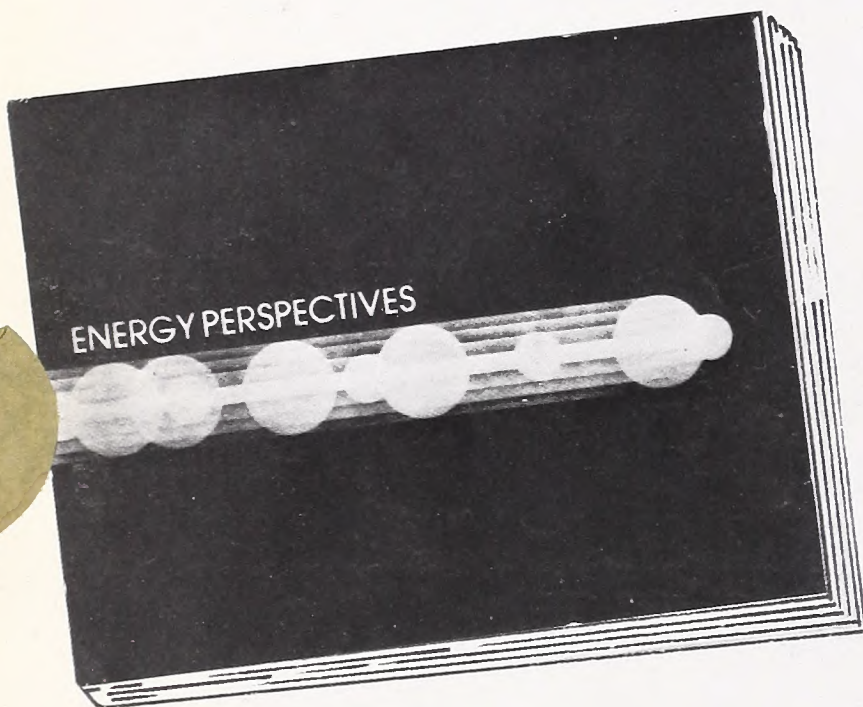
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This 210-page publication is about today's energy picture. It gives data that will be useful to experts, but is understandable to laymen about energy reserves, energy inputs, petroleum consumption, production and refining capacity, natural gas reserves and production, coal reserves and production, and hydroelectric power. It relies heavily on graphics to explain data.

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